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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/606,503	06/28/2000	John T. Chapman	CISCP145/1945	6276
22434	7590	02/10/2006	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP			HARPER, KEVIN C	
P.O. BOX 70250			ART UNIT	
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250			PAPER NUMBER	
			2666	

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/606,503	CHAPMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin C. Harper	2666	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Kevin C. Harper. (3) ____.
- (2) Dean Wolf (Reg. No. 37,260). (4) ____.

Date of Interview: 08 February 2006.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: ____.

Claim(s) discussed: 84.

Identification of prior art discussed: Fijolek (US 6,510,162).


Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.



Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: It was agreed that none of the cited prior art references, including Fijolek (US 6,510,162), teaches or suggests, either singly or in combination, the combination of features recited in proposed amended claim 84 below:

84. A method for facilitating communications between a network node and a Head End of an access network, the access network including a plurality of nodes which communicate with the Head End via at least one upstream channel and at least one downstream channel, the access network including a first node adapted to communicate with the Head End via at least one downstream channel and at least one upstream channel, the access network further including a second node adapted to communicate with the Head End via at least one downstream channel and at least one upstream channel, the at least one downstream channel including a first downstream channel and a second downstream channel, wherein the first downstream channel is associated with a first channel identifier, and the second downstream channel is associated with a second channel identifier, the at least one upstream channel including a first upstream channel associated with a third channel identifier, wherein the third channel identifier is different from the first channel identifier and second channel identifier, the method comprising:

communicating between the Head End and the first and second nodes via the first downstream channel;

monitoring bandwidth-related information associated with the first and second downstream channels;

performing a load balancing operation which includes transmitting a dynamic channel change request to the first node in order to cause the first node to switch from the first downstream channel to the second downstream channel, wherein the load balancing operation is performed for the purpose of managing bandwidth resources on the first and second downstream channels;

receiving, at the first node, a first communication from the Head End, said first communication including the request to perform a dynamic channel change operation, said dynamic channel change (DCC) request including a request to perform a downstream channel change operation;

responding to the dynamic channel change request by implementing the downstream channel change operation at the first node;

communicating between the Head End and the first node via the second downstream channel after successful completion of the downstream channel change operation; and

communicating between the Head End and the second node via the first downstream channel after successful completion of the downstream channel change operation at the first node.